

From: Lorenzo Thurman
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 4:27pm
Subject: Microsoft anit-trust settlement

I feel the settlement does not punish Microsoft for their wrong doings. Note that I did not say "punish enough", because I do not feel they are being punished at all. The agreement calls for oversight, not punishment, and a large donation to schools. Neither of these will force Microsoft into changing its behaviour nor will they help create a more competitve environment. I, as a software developer, feel that any business I start would be threatened if I develop technology like Java that threatens their Monopoly.

I've heard some of Secretary Ashcroft's comments about the settlement and at least part of his reasoning is that it would be good for the economy. In the short term, this may be true, but the downturn in the economy and the war on terrorism will pass, and we will be left with a very non-competitive environment with one company dominating both the operating system and the applications area. This potentially has global ramifications. As you may be aware, some European countries and China are looking elsewhere for their technology. They are concerned about their own security and having only one company to provide the bulk of their productivity, security etc. This will only serve to create markets outside of the US. The Justice Department's current settlement may solve short term problems, but will only serve to isolate the American software vendors, unless you act now to reduce and/or restrict the Microsoft monopoly.

Thank you